ACT 36 - INSIDE THE WELL

Christo-
phe...

Rech...

Guy...

SPLASH

3

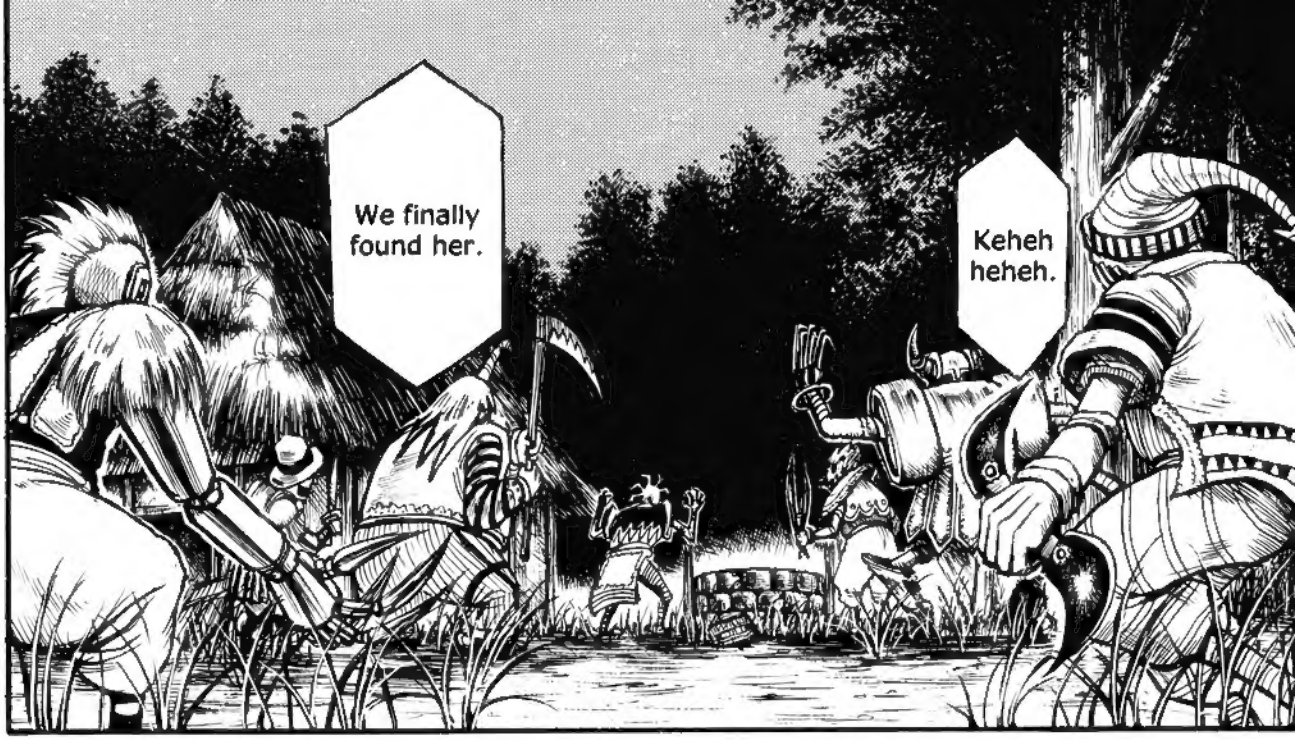
SHE MUST BE THERE.

2

RIGHT... THE ONLY OTHER PLACE THAT DOLL FRANCINE KNOWS HERE...

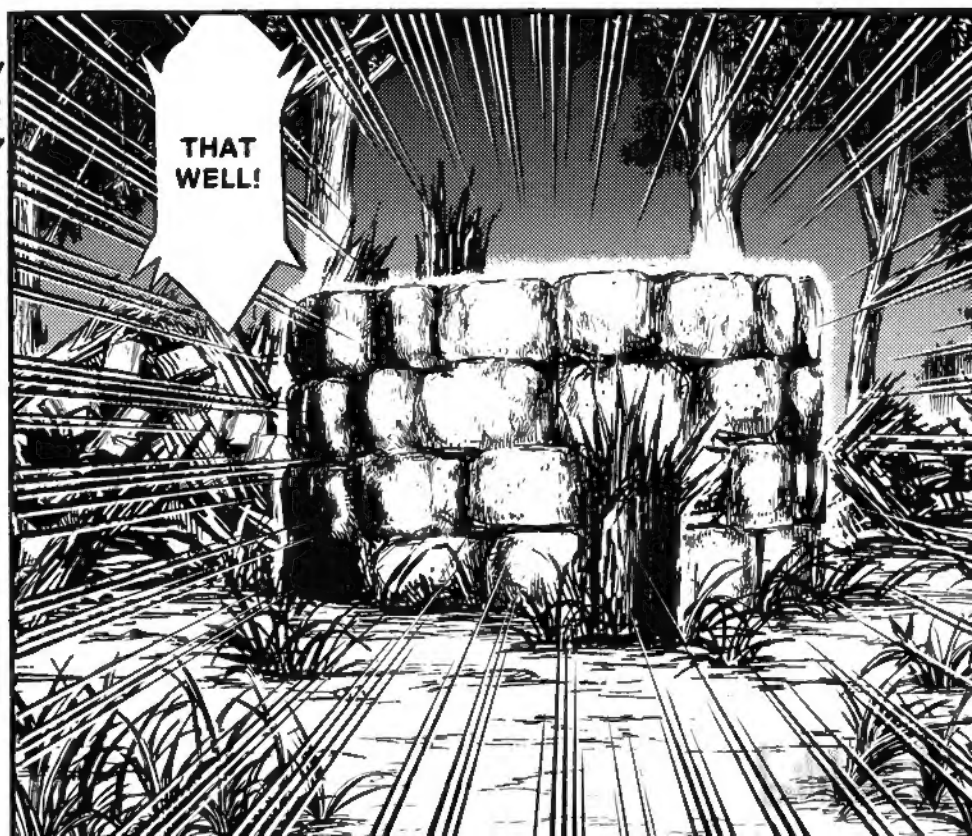
IS THAT PLACE...

DROP


We finally found her.
Keheh heheh.

That damn automaton woman, she did a fine job hiding!
We already searched every-where else, the only place left...
Is in THERE!

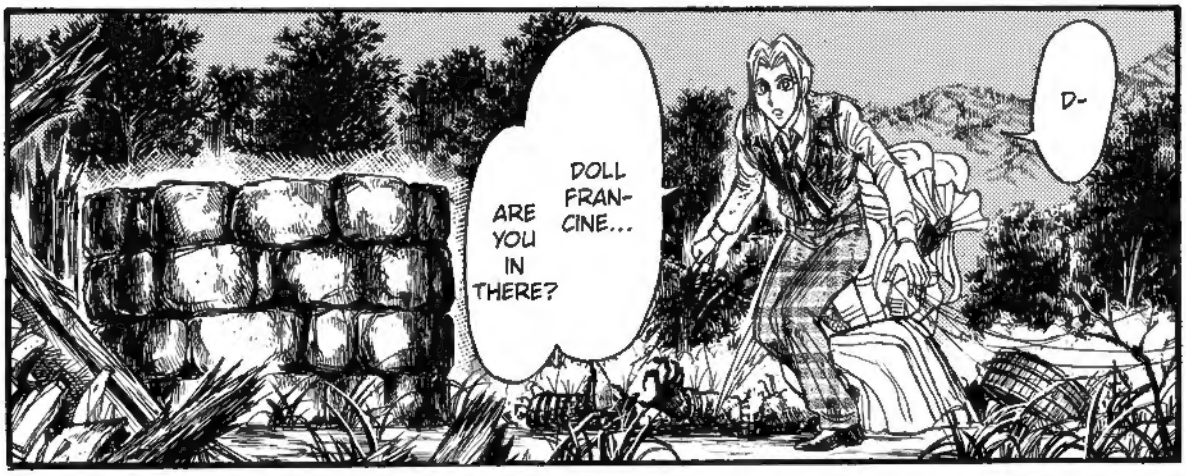
RUSTLE


THAT WELL!

GRAB
The two who ran away were a doll and a human baby.
I didn't hear anything!
Did you hear that?
Hm?
Yeah, keheheh, LET'S SEE!
We'll kill them right away and return to the village.

W-
WHAT..?!
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
BLAM

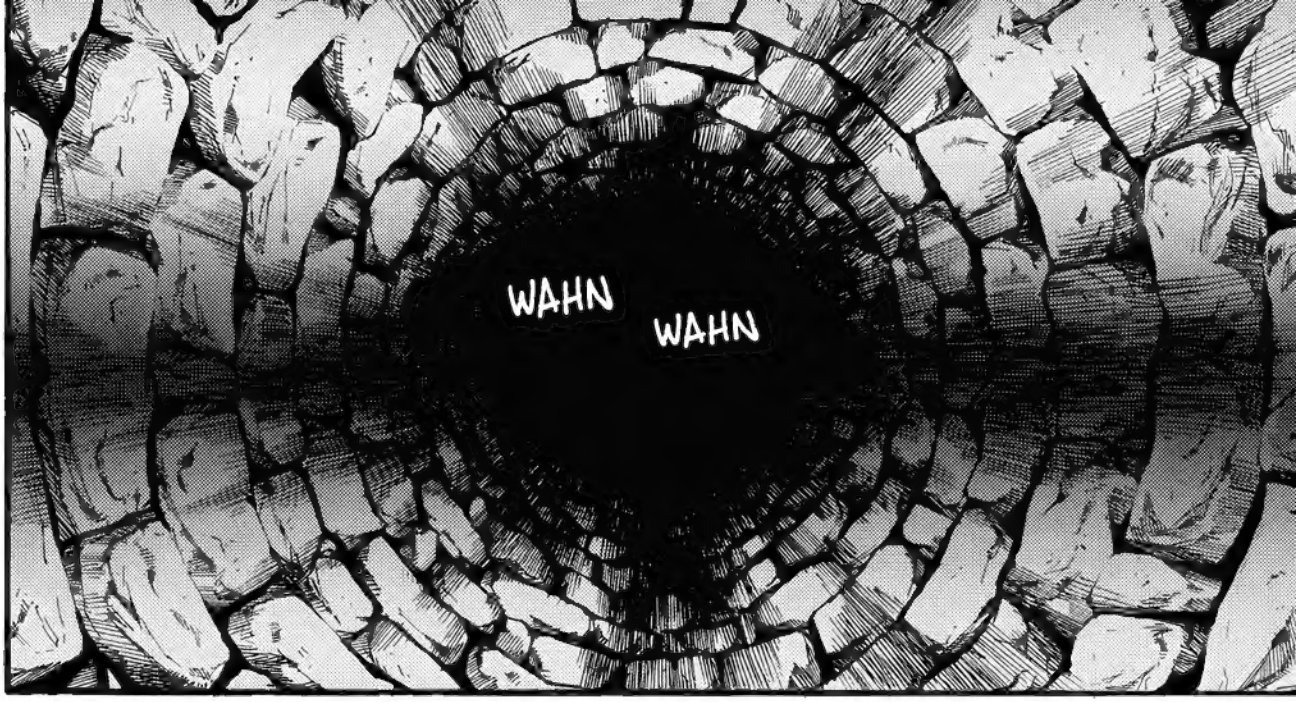
THE WELL!
WHERE...
...WERE THEY LOOKING AT?

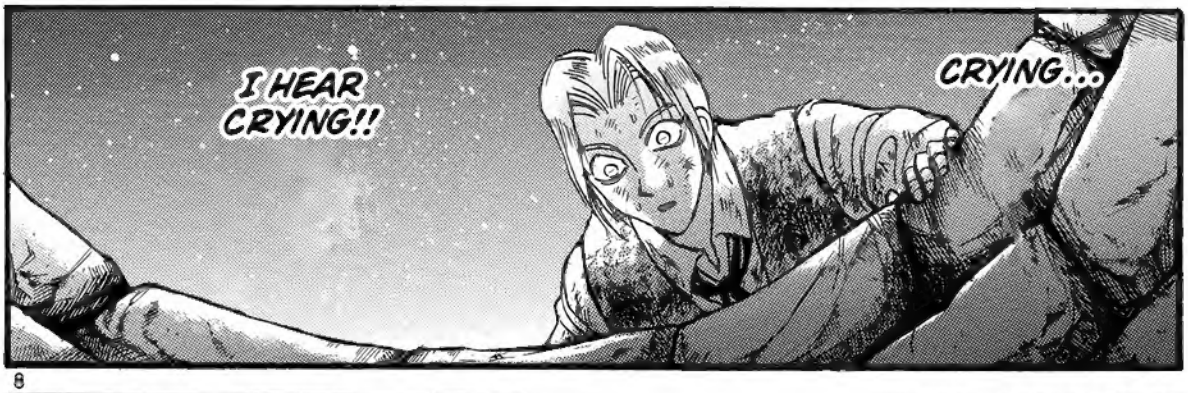

D-
DOLL FRAN-CINE...
ARE YOU IN THERE?

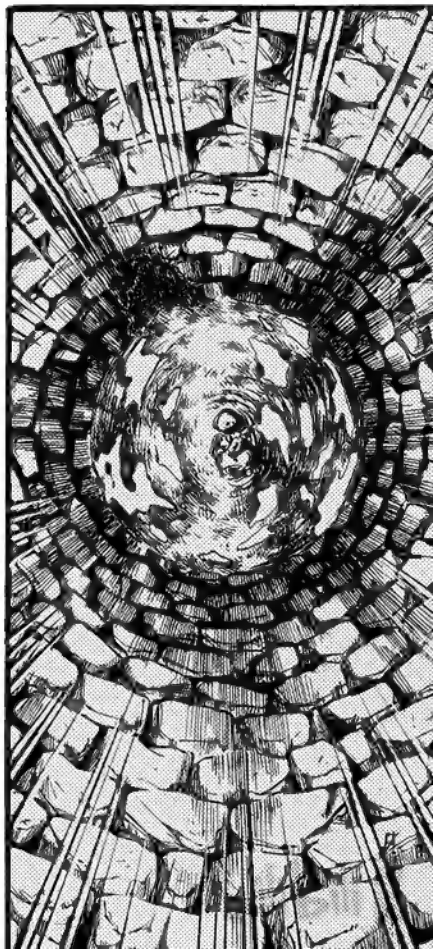
HEY, DOLL FRAN-CINE...!

IF ELEO-NORE DIES... I...!
ELEO-NORE!

IS ELEONORE ALRIGHT?!
IT'S ME... GUY!


WAHN
WAHN

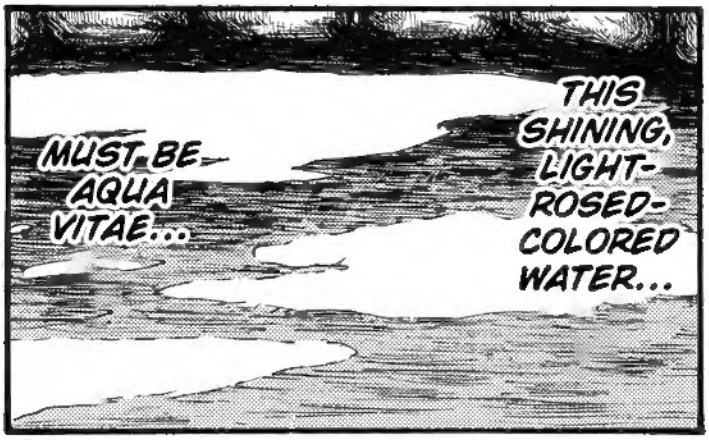

I HEAR CRYING!!
CRYING...

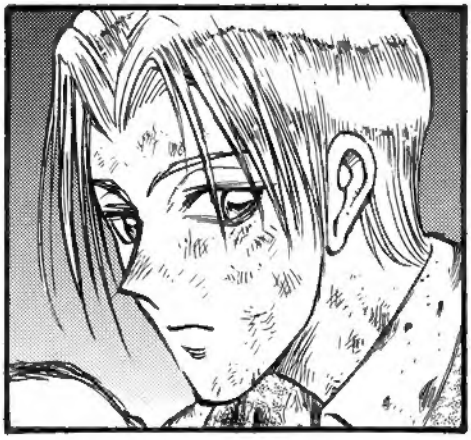


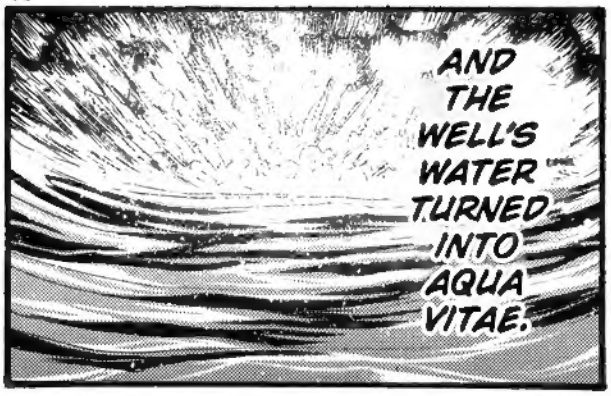
9

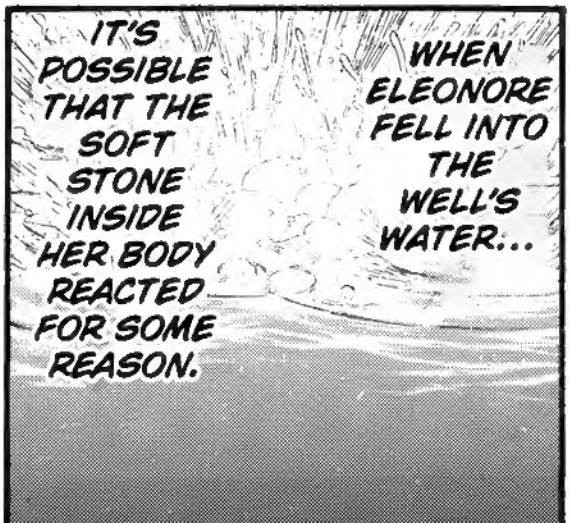
WAAAHN
あぁん

WAAAHN
あぁん
WAAAHN
あぁん


MUST BE AQUA VITAE...
THIS SHINING, LIGHT-ROSED-COLORED WATER...



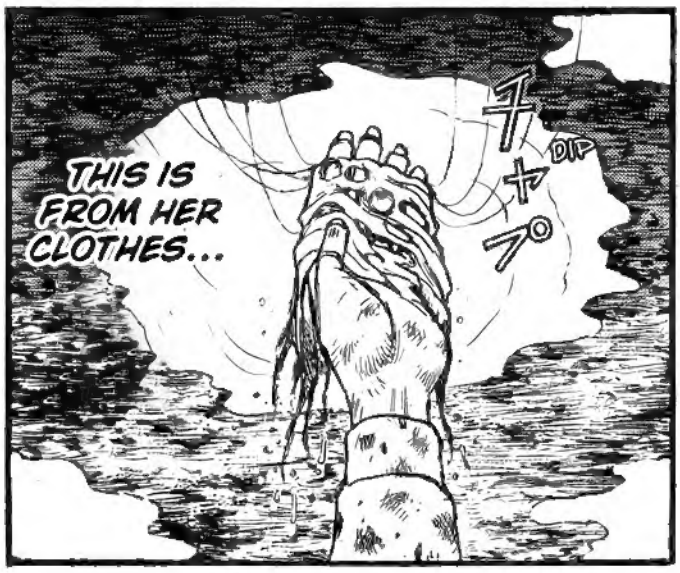

AND THE WELL'S WATER TURNED INTO AQUA VITAE.

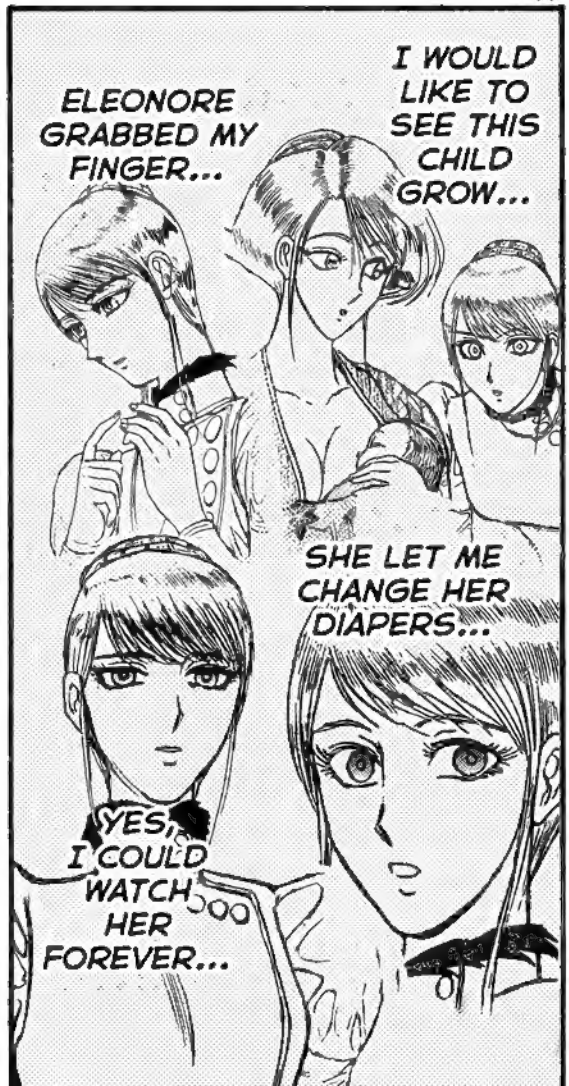

WHEN ELEONORE FELL INTO THE WELL'S WATER...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE SOFT STONE INSIDE HER BODY REACTED FOR SOME REASON.

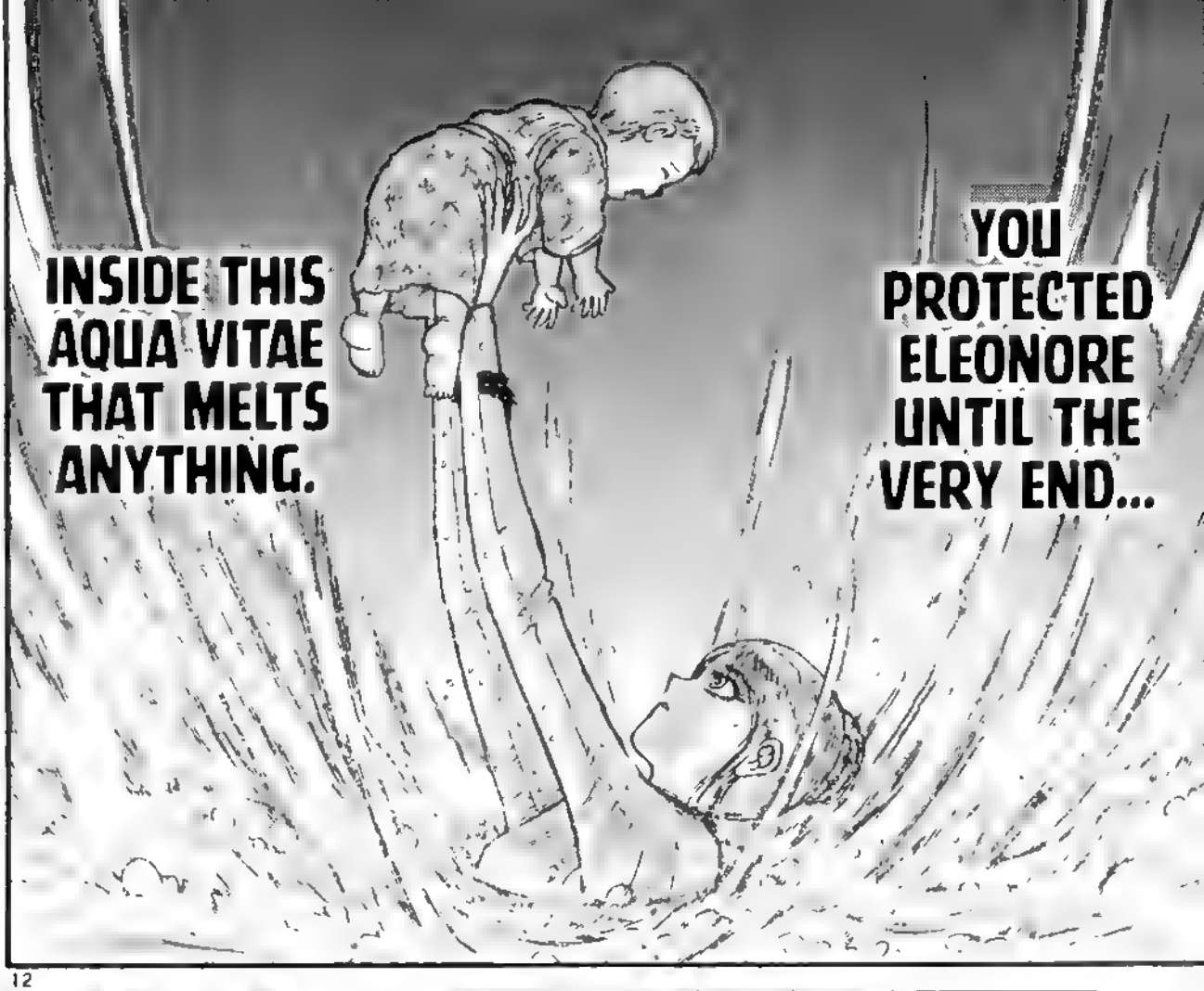
DID SHE RUN AWAY?

WHAT ABOUT DOLL FRANCINE?

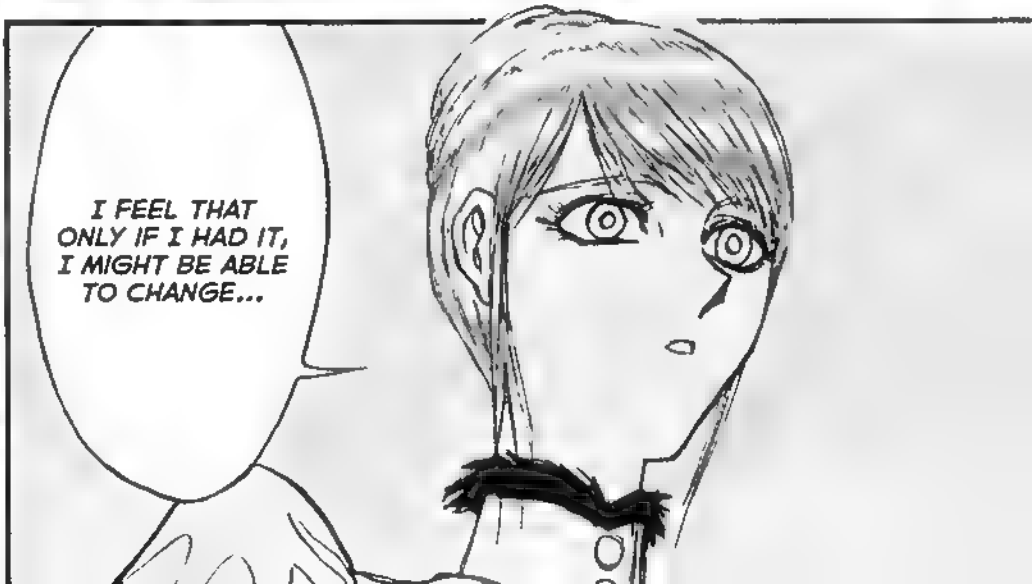
THEN...

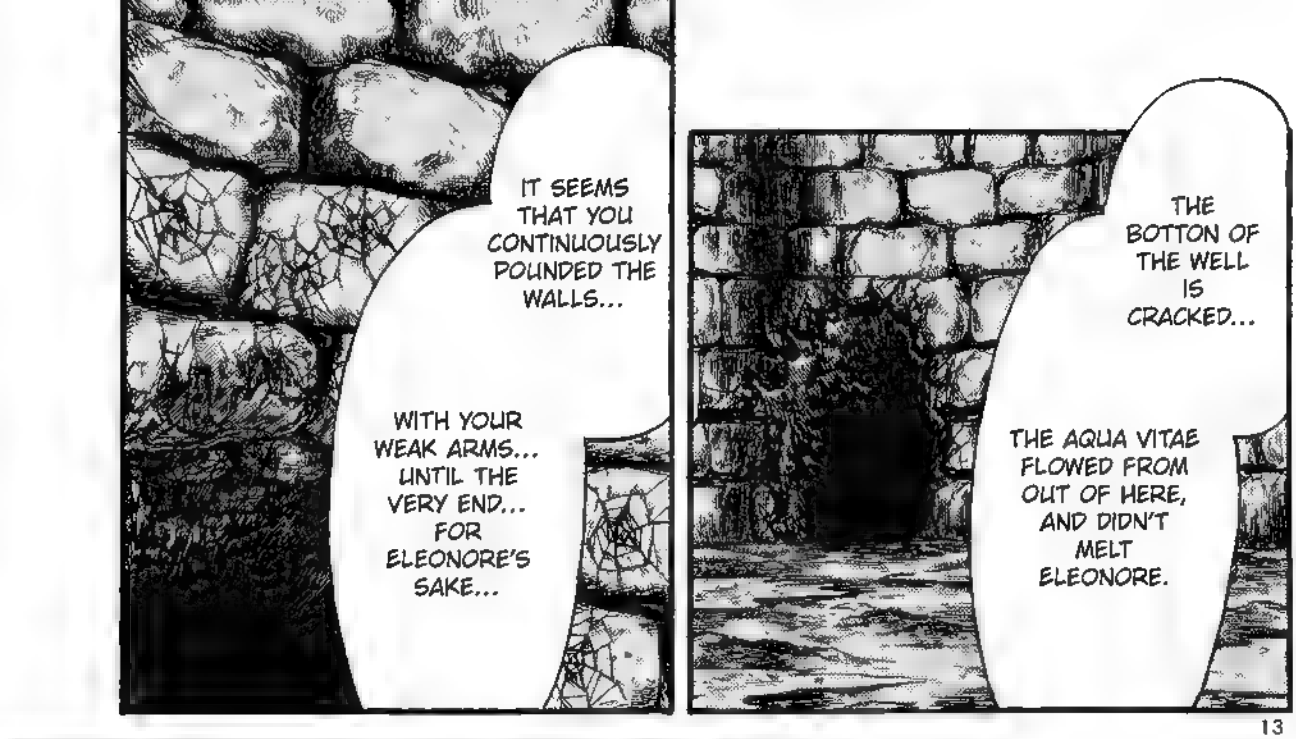





INSIDE THIS AQUA VITAE THAT MELTS ANYTHING.
YOU PROTECTED ELEONORE UNTIL THE VERY END...

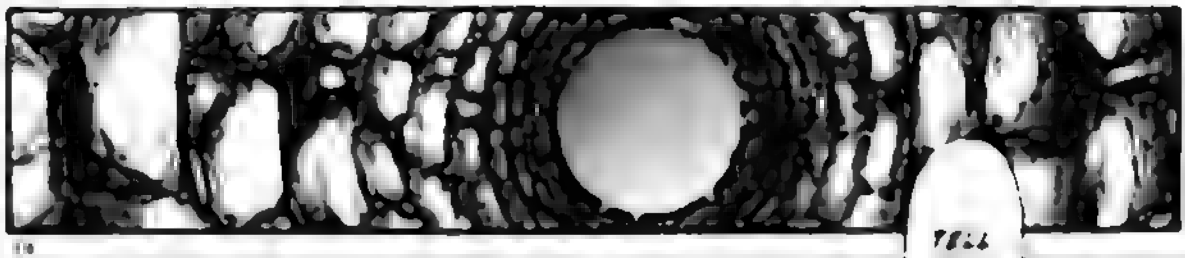
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF WHAT THAT MIGHT BE.
I ALWAYS FELT AS IF SOME VITALLY IMPORTANT GEAR WERE MISSING INSIDE ME.


I FEEL THAT ONLY IF I HAD IT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE...

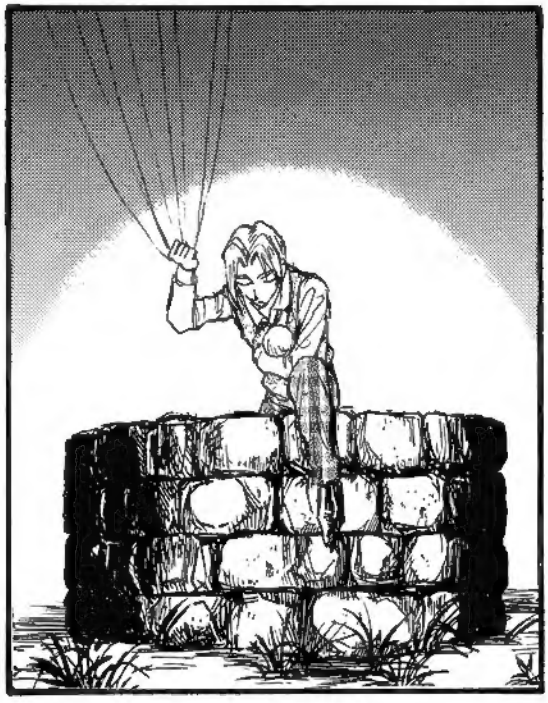

IT SEEMS THAT YOU CONTINUOUSLY POUNDED THE WALLS...
WITH YOUR WEAK ARMS... UNTIL THE VERY END... FOR ELEONORE'S SAKE...
THE BOTTON OF THE WELL IS CRACKED...
THE AQUA VITAE FLOWED FROM OUT OF HERE, AND DIDN'T MELT ELEONORE.

.....
DID YOU FIND...
YOUR MISSING GEAR?

WERE YOU...
ABLE TO CHANGE?
AT THE END...


TELL ME

FRANCINE...



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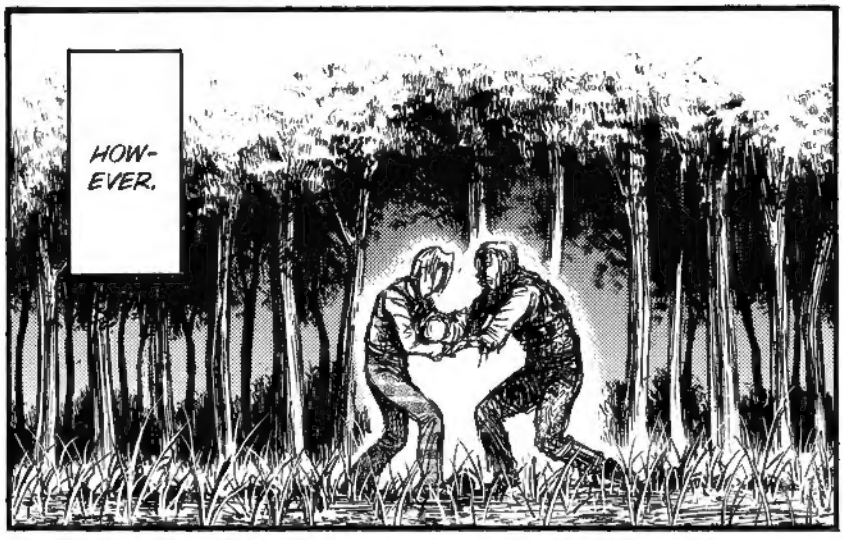
HER MOTHER'S FINAL WORDS WOULD NOT COME TRUE.

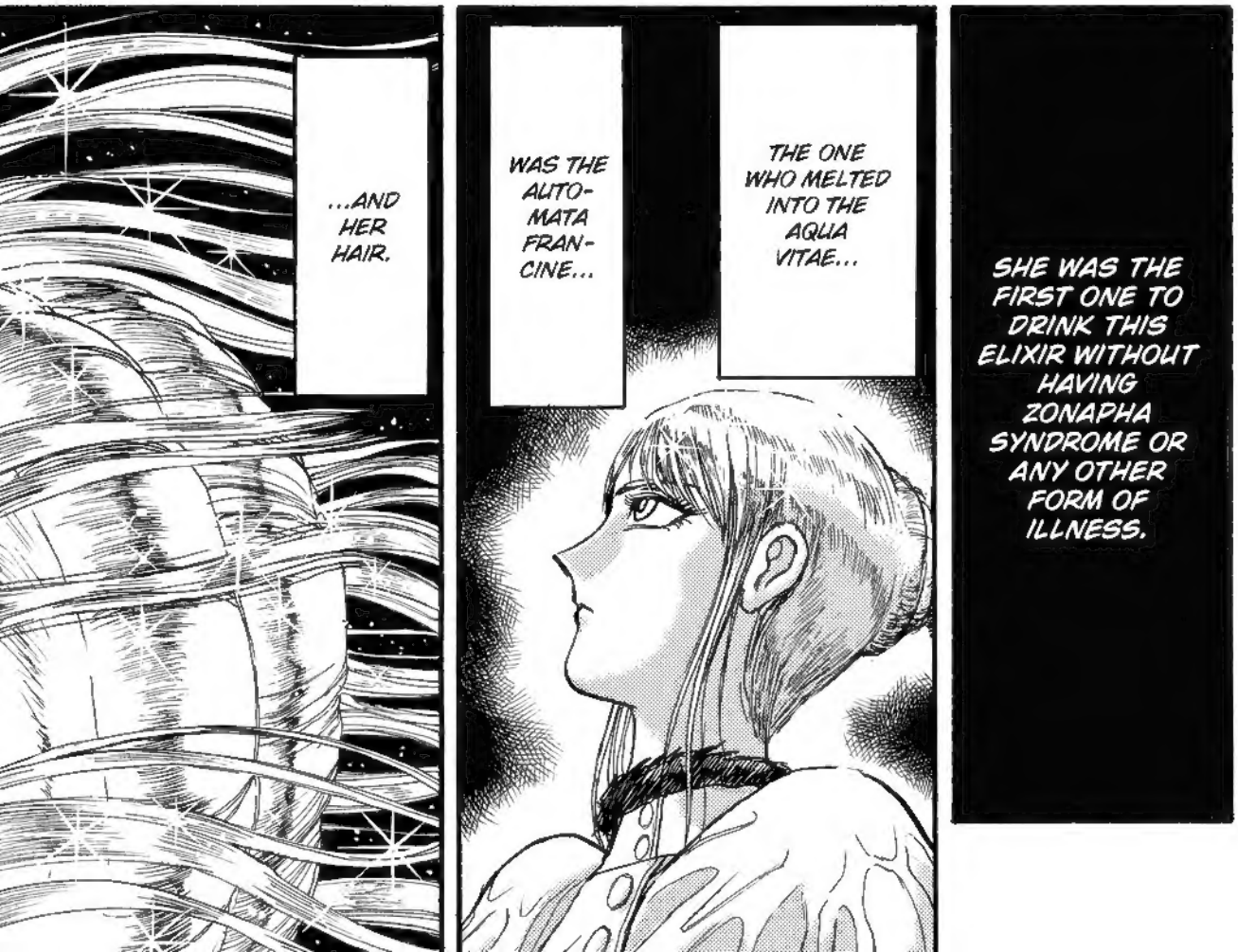


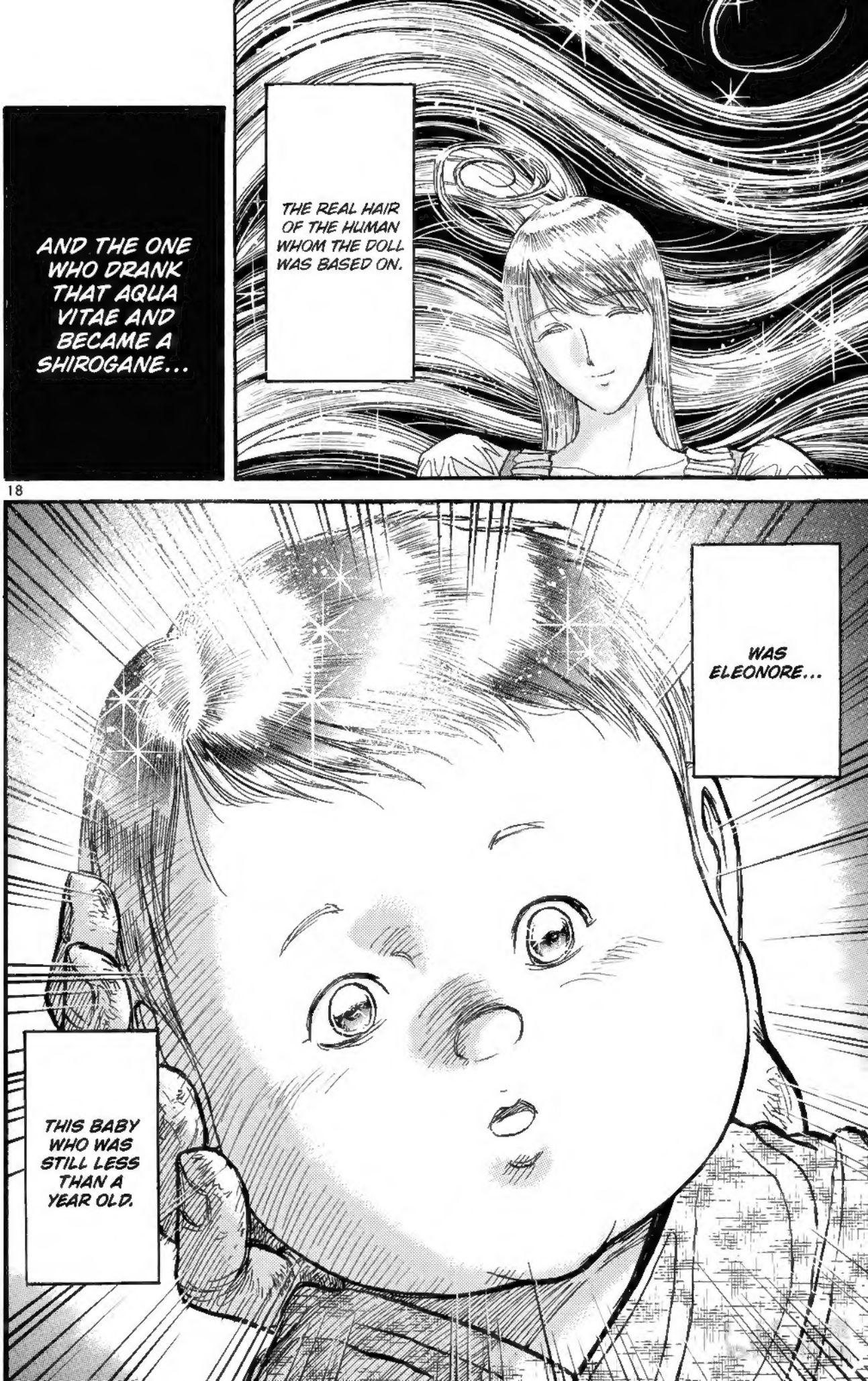
DON'T LET HER BE BURDENED

WITH THE SAME FATE THAT I WAS.

AQUA VITAE IS AN ALL-HEALING ELIXIR...
...THAT KEEPS THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO MELT WITHIN IT.
ANY HUMAN WHO DRINKS IT TAKES LONGER TO GROW OLD AND DIE, THEY TURN INTO A SHIROGANE.

IN THE YEAR OF 1910, (YEAR 43 OF THE MEIJI ERA).
A NEW SHIROGANE WAS BORN.


SHE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO DRINK THIS ELIXIR WITHOUT HAVING ZONAPHA SYNDROME OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ILLNESS.
THE ONE WHO MELTED INTO THE AQUA VITAE...
WAS THE AUTO-MATA FRAN-CINE...
...AND HER HAIR.


AND THE ONE WHO DRANK THAT AQUA VITAE AND BECAME A SHIROGANE...
THE REAL HAIR OF THE HUMAN WHOM THE DOLL WAS BASED ON.
18
WAS ELEONORE...
THIS BABY WHO WAS STILL LESS THAN A YEAR OLD.